

Project on  
Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance  
(EWIDS)  
with the US-Mexico Border Health Commission  
(BHC)



## **Background**

On 12/12/03, Secretary Thompson announced jointly with Secretary Julio Frenk the transfer of \$5.4 million from the Department of Health and Human Services to the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission to enhance binational, cross-border early warning infectious disease surveillance.

## **Objective**

EWIDS project is to improve cross-border activities in early detection, identification, and reporting of infectious diseases associated with potential bio-terrorism agents or other major threats to public health.

# Introduction to the EWIDS Project

⇒ **EWIDS project consists of two companion but separate initiatives:**

- 1. USMBHC, 6 Mexican border states and Secretariat of Health of Mexico**
- 2. 20 U.S. states sharing borders with Mexico and Canada.**

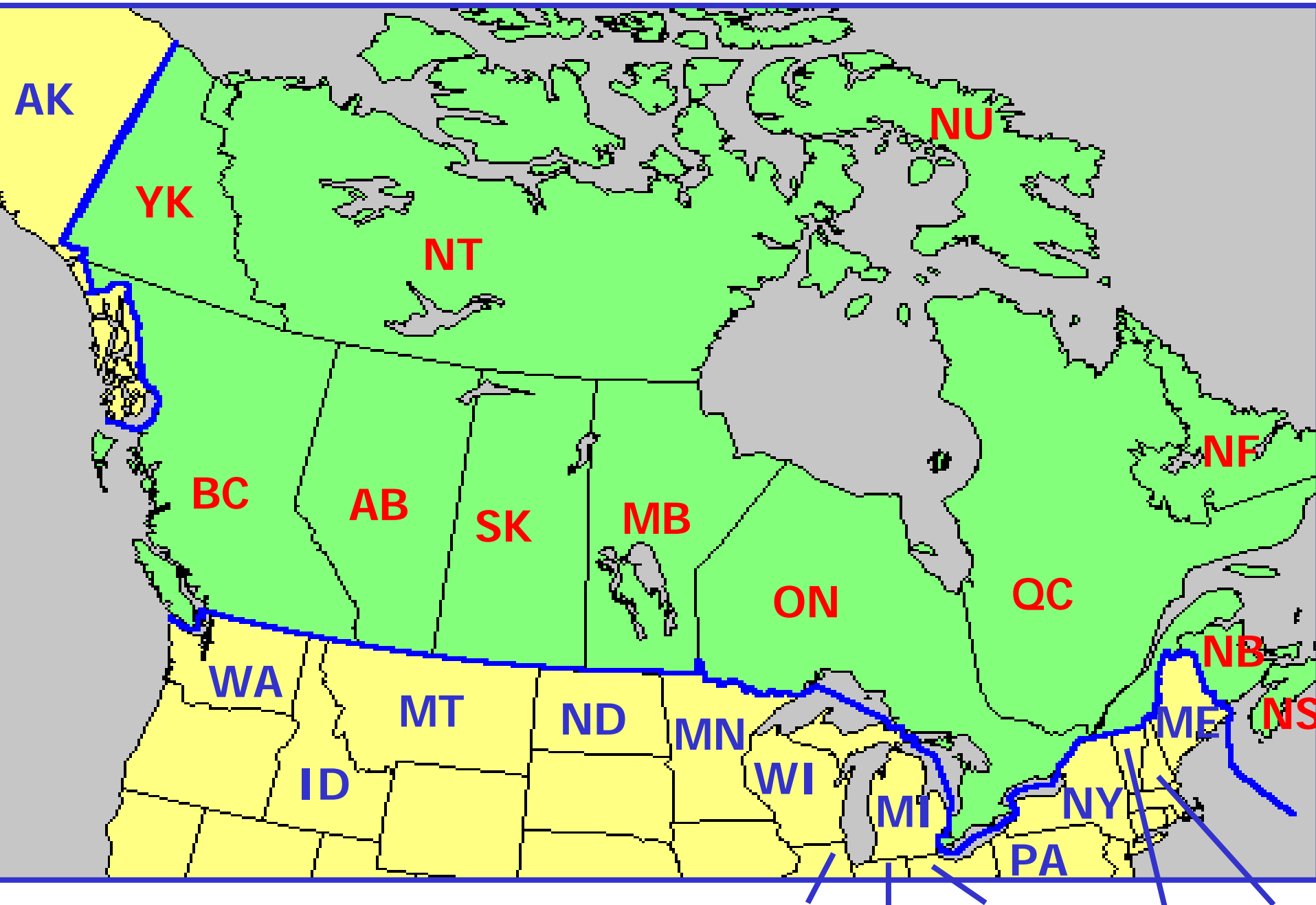
⇒ **Both sets of EWIDS activities are intended to strengthen critical capacities in surveillance and epidemiology, laboratory capacity for biological agents, surveillance related communication and information technology, and surveillance/epidemiology related education and training**

# Participants in USMBHC EWIDS Project

- Mexico Secretariat of Health (Mexico City)
- USMBHC (US and Mexico offices)
- Baja California
- Sonora
- Chihuahua
- Coahuila
- Nuevo Leon
- Tamaulipas

# 20 U.S. Border States EWIDS Project

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Idaho
- Illinois \*
- Indiana \*
- Maine
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio \*
- Pennsylvania \*
- Texas
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wisconsin \*





# Introduction to the EWIDS Project

## ⇒ Common features:

- 1) **Emphasis on cross-border infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology, and**
- 2) **Involvement of all 10 state health officers and bioterrorism coordinators of the U.S. and Mexico border states**

## ⇒ Overall goals:

- 1) **Enhance coordination among neighboring states in the U.S. and Mexico**
- 2) **Improve surveillance capabilities at the state, local and tribal level**
- 3) **Launch an epidemiological investigation promptly**
- 4) **Share surveillance (including laboratory) data**
- 5) **Provide for appropriately trained public health personnel for these activities**

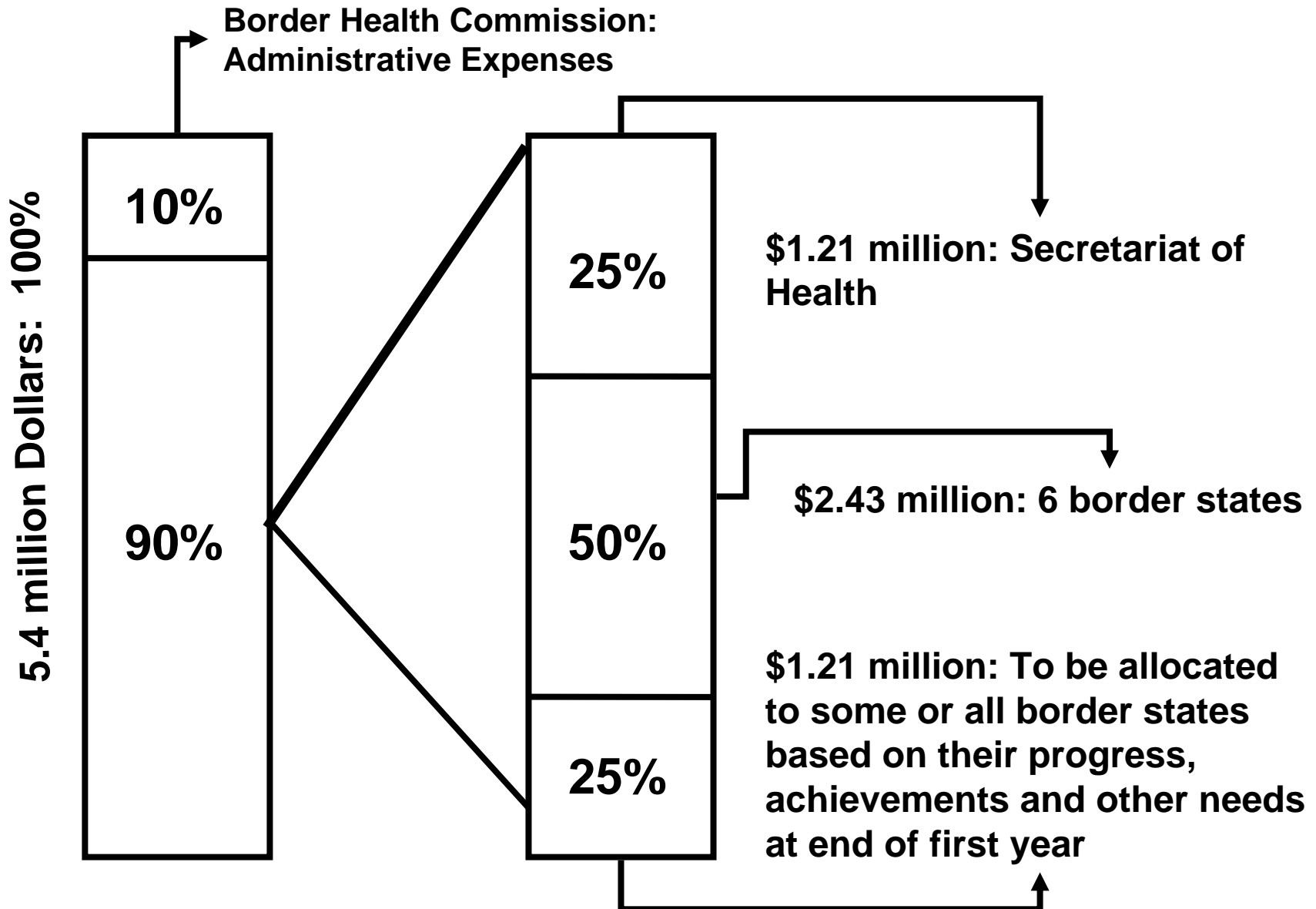
# **BHC-EWIDS Project Guidance**

- ⇒ Prescribes guidelines for the submission of proposals by the 7 recipient entities**
- ⇒ Provides framework and technical requirements for implementation of activities**
- ⇒ Identifies terms and conditions of the grants and associated reporting requirements**
- ⇒ Jointly developed by HHS and SOH staff, taking into account national bioterrorism and infectious disease emergency preparedness plans of both countries**

# **Geographical Areas Targeted by BHC-EWIDS Project**

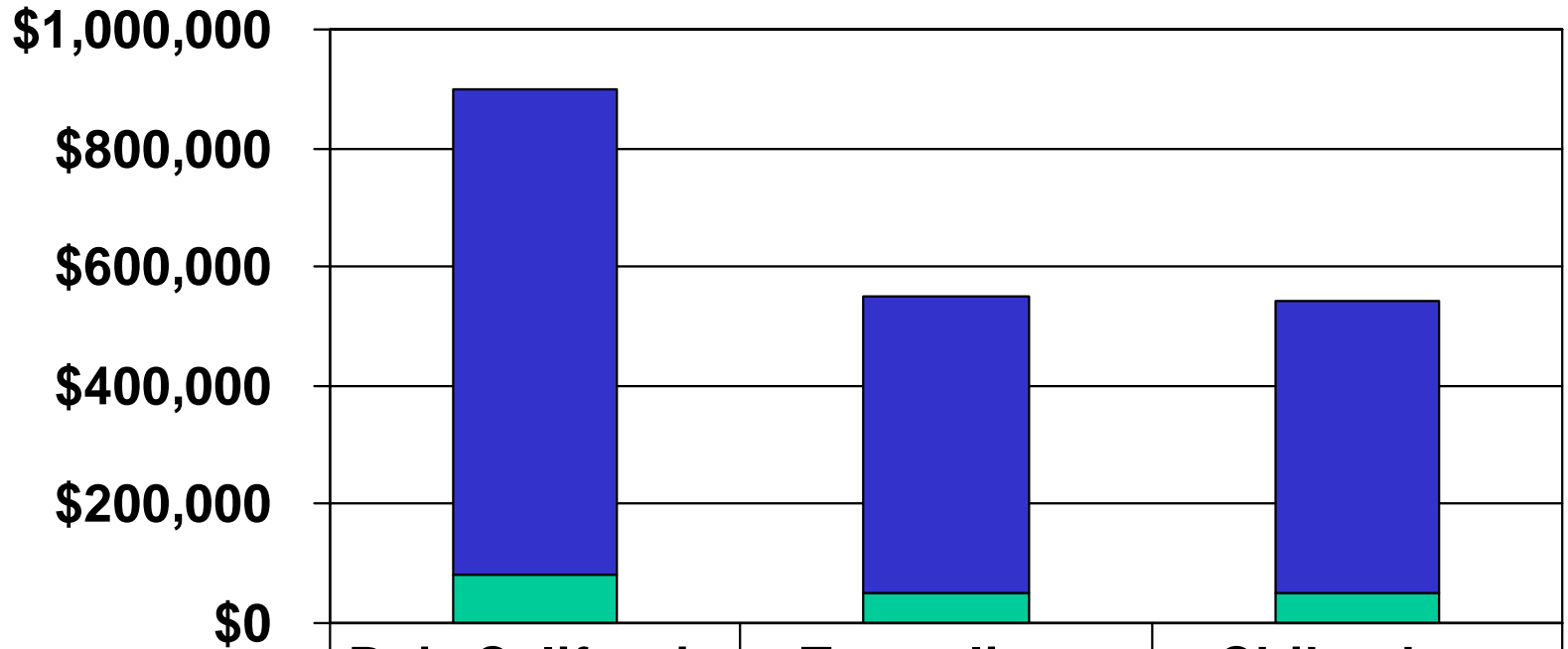
- Border region within 100 kilometer on either side of the international border**
- Some of the state health departments in the six Mexican states are located beyond the 100-kilometer range**
- Since the state health department is responsible for coordinating and integrating statewide surveillance and epidemiology related efforts, its cross-border surveillance activities can be supported by the BHC EWIDS funds**

# Distribution of Funding



# Distribution of Funding

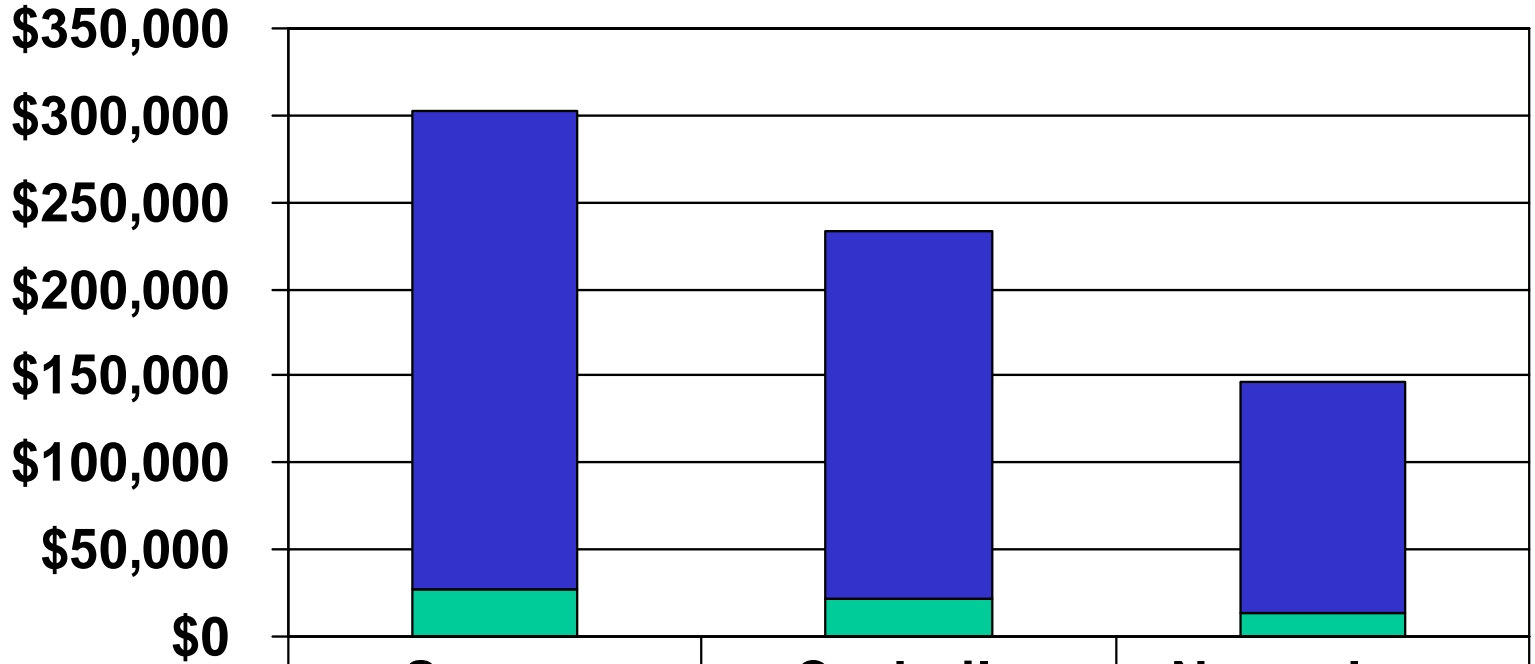
## Border State Allocations



<b>■ Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$816,734</b>	<b>\$499,822</b>	<b>\$493,025</b>
<b>■ 10% Allocation</b>	<b>\$81,673</b>	<b>\$49,982</b>	<b>\$49,302</b>

# Distribution of Funding

## Border State Allocations



<b>■ Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$275,053</b>	<b>\$211,780</b>	<b>\$133,585</b>
<b>■ 10% Allocation</b>	<b>\$27,505</b>	<b>\$21,178</b>	<b>\$13,359</b>

# **Critical Capacities Relevant to Cross-Border Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology**

## **A. Surveillance and Epidemiological Capacity**

### **Surveillance and Detection**

***Critical Capacity:*** To rapidly detect an infectious disease outbreak (terrorist-triggered or naturally occurring) along the U.S.-Mexico border through a highly functioning mandatory reportable disease surveillance system that includes timely and complete reporting by providers and laboratories

# **Critical Capacities Relevant to Cross-Border Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology**

## **A. Surveillance and Epidemiological Capacity (Cont'd)**

### **Epidemiologic Investigation and Response**

***Critical Capacity:* To rapidly and effectively investigate and respond to a potential bioterrorist event, as evidenced by ongoing, effective state and local responses to naturally occurring individual cases of urgent public health importance or outbreaks of disease along U.S-Mexico border**

# **Critical Capacities Relevant to Cross-Border Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology**

## **B. Laboratory Capacity for Biological Agents**

### **Critical Capacity:**

**To develop and implement a program to provide rapid and effective laboratory services in support of cross-border infectious disease surveillance activities**

# **Critical Capacities Relevant to Cross-Border Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology**

## **C. Surveillance-Related Communications and Information Technology**

### **Critical Capacity:**

**To ensure electronic exchange of infectious disease related information (including clinical, laboratory and environmental data) in standard formats between the computer systems of your public health department and those of your counterpart agency across the U.S.-Mexico border**

# **Critical Capacities**

## **Relevant to Cross-Border Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology**

### **D. Surveillance and Epidemiology-Related Education and Training**

#### **Critical Capacity:**

**To provide ongoing, specialized training in infectious disease surveillance, epidemiological investigations and laboratory diagnostics for public health, clinical, and other healthcare professionals to develop subject matter expertise within the public health system for cross-border disease detection, diagnostics, contact tracing, and outbreak analysis**

# Needs Assessments

**Each of the 7 recipient entities will be receiving up to 10% of its allocation to enable each to:**

- **Conduct a needs assessment of the critical capacities necessary for infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology**
- **Prioritize the needs that have been identified**
- **Prepare an implementation proposal for addressing the highest priority needs**

**SOH developed needs assessment guidelines (Annex 1) that will be used by all seven applicant entities**

# **Preparation of Implementation Proposals**

## **A. Identification of Needs in Infectious Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology**

- **Identify needs in decreasing priority**
- **Explain how the needs addressed in the proposal relate to those needs identified in the completed needs assessment**
- **Provide summary of the completed needs assessment**

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## B. Proposed Work Plan

For each sub-project:

- Identify needs to be addressed
- Describe proposed tasks to meet identified needs
- Provide a timeline for each task
- Identify the responsible individual(s)
- Describe current activities that provide relevant experience
- Describe existing collaborative relationships with other agencies that will be involved in the proposed activities

# Progress to Date

- A timetable for planning and implementation of project-related activities has been developed
- A population-based funding allocation formula was successfully negotiated

## Progress to Date (continued)

- Detailed project guidance for preparation of implementation proposals has been jointly developed
- Advisory and Technical Committees members were appointed
- Programmatic and fiscal accountability measures have been established

# Long-Term EWIDS Project Activities

Continual promotion and coordination of infectious disease related surveillance and epidemiology activities among the 6 Mexican and 4 U.S. states along the international border

Periodic evaluation and monitoring of project activities to assess the enhancement of infectious disease surveillance/epidemiology capabilities and capacities along the US-Mexico border

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# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## C. Schedule of Activities

- Describe and define milestones to be achieved
- Specify when they are expected to be achieved
- Synchronize the milestones with the timetable to facilitate project management and oversight
- Describe activities that can affect the completion of any of the sub-projects
- Include a timetable to assist the Technical Committee in tracking progress

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## D. Management and Staffing Plan

- Identify the Project Director, sub-project leaders, and key individuals and provide their curriculum vitae
- Specify background and experience of each individual that is relevant to the overall project or sub-project
- Describe how the program will be effectively managed in terms of management structure, lines of authority and responsibilities
- Describe the project's organizational structure, plans for fiscal control, and accountability

# **Preparation of Implementation Proposals**

**E. Explain how the proposal aligns with the objectives and lines of action of Mexico's State and Jurisdictional Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Plans**

- (1) Letter of endorsement from the State Secretary of Health, and**
- (2) Documentation that the state has submitted its State and Jurisdictional Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Plans to the Mexico Secretariat of Health**

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## F. Organizational structure of the State's *Secretaría de Salud (Secretariat of Health)*

- Provide brief description of areas within organization that are involved in surveillance, epidemiology and control activities of infectious diseases
- Include a listing of the main health facilities in the border region

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## G. Budget and Justification

- **Develop an estimated budget for each sub-project**
- **Break down into:**
  - a) personnel, equipment, travel and other costs**
  - (b) phases appropriate for the tasks**
- **Provide narrative justification for budget items**

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

- **Budgets can include:**
  - **Hiring of epidemiologists, laboratory technicians, and information technology specialists**
  - **Laboratory equipment and reagents**
  - **Surveillance and epidemiology-related information and communications technology**
- **Identify the amount(s) and source(s) of any non-EWIDS funds**

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## Use of Funds:

- Strictly for support of *surveillance and epidemiology-related activities* necessary to address bioterrorism and other outbreaks of infectious diseases
- **Not** to be used for other bioterrorism preparedness and response activities, e.g., risk communication, public education, purchase of pharmaceuticals
- **Not** to be used to fund preparedness against chemical, radiological, nuclear or explosive events

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## Use of Funds:

- **Not** for construction
- **Not** for reimbursement of activities that have already taken place
- **Not** to pay for equipment and supplies procured before 3 January 2005
- May be used only to *supplement* but *not to supplant* other (state and/or local) funds

# Preparation of Implementation Proposals

## H. Sustainability Plan

- **How will the state sustain EWIDS activities in the long term?**
- **Identify any long-term support from non-EWIDS sources, including in-kind support, matching funds and other resources**

# Proposal Review Criteria

## A. Implementation Proposal

- Objectives are specific, measurable and time-phased
- Tasks and activities are logical
- Projected timeline is reasonable/realistic
- Measures of progress are described

## B. Management and Staffing Plan

- Sound management structure
- Clear lines of authority
- Plans for fiscal control
- Designated staff have appropriate qualifications and experience

## C. Budget and Justification

- Proposal provides detailed budget and justification

# Reporting Requirements

## A. Quarterly reports

- **Provide update on progress towards objectives described in proposal**
- **Describe obstacles or impediments that may have appeared**
- **Explain whether or not problems were resolved**
- **Itemize financial expenditures that include (but not limited to) personnel, equipment, travel and other costs**

# Reporting Requirements

## B. Annual Report

- **Summary of progress for each sub-project during the first year (January-December 2005)**
- **Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, obstacles and other issues encountered**
- **Report of expenses from the first year**
- **To be submitted within 60 days after the end of the first year of the project (no later than 2/28/2006)**

# Reporting Requirements

## C. Final Report

- To be submitted within 60 days after the end of the 2-year project period
- Requirements for this report will be provided to the recipient entities 6 months prior to 31 December 2006

Copies of all reports will be submitted to the USMBHC as well as the U.S. DHHS and Mexico's SOH

# Questions?

